

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 9, 2010. Claims 1 to 8, 10 and 11 are presented for examination. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Amendment After Final Action dated March 31, 2010 was objected to for allegedly introducing new matter. In particular, the Office Action alleges that “printed recording sheet” is not supported by the original disclosure. Without conceding the correctness of the objection, the claims have been amended to remove the objected-to phrase. Withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,710,634 (Kuriyama) and U.S. Patent No. 6,246,493 (Uchiyama). Claims 4 to 8, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kuriyama, Uchiyama and U.S. Patent No. 6,011,634 (Aibara). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 generally concerns the arrangement of a display unit in a facsimile apparatus. The apparatus includes a display unit closably arranged relative to an operation panel, and which is overlaid onto the operation panel upon closing. The apparatus further includes a document inserting port arranged in the upper portion of the apparatus main body, a document ejecting port arranged in a front portion of the apparatus main body, and a recording paper inserting port arranged in the upper portion of the apparatus main body.

According to one aspect of Claim 1, when the display unit is closed, it does not block any of the document inserting port, the recording paper inserting port, or the document ejecting port. For one example embodiment, see Figure 9. Naturally, it is understood that the

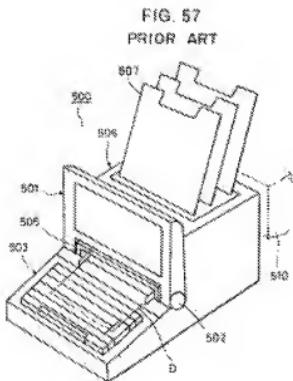
claims are not limited by the disclosed embodiment, which is simply one example of an embodiment according to the claims.

By virtue of this arrangement, it is ordinarily possible to reduce the effective volume of the apparatus by closing the display unit, while still allowing easy access to each of the document inserting port, the recording paper inserting port, or the document ejecting port.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to a facsimile apparatus. The apparatus includes an operation panel arranged in an upper front position of an apparatus main body. The apparatus further includes a display unit arranged in an upper portion of the apparatus main body, closably arranged relative to the operation panel, located in an upper rear position of the operation panel upon opening, and overlaid onto the operation panel upon closing. Additionally, the apparatus includes a document inserting port arranged in the upper portion of the apparatus main body, for inserting an original document from a location to the rear of the display unit, a document ejecting port arranged in a front portion of the apparatus main body for ejecting the original document, and a recording paper inserting port arranged in the upper portion of the apparatus main body, for inserting a blank recording sheet from a location to the rear of the display unit. The display unit does not block any of the document inserting port, the document and ejecting port or the recording paper inserting port when the display unit is closed.

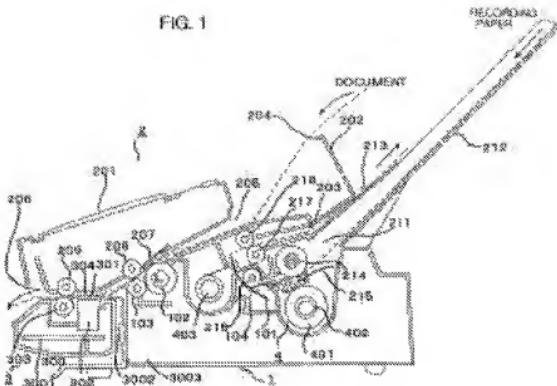
The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of Claim 1, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of a facsimile apparatus with a display unit which, when closed, does not block any of a document inserting port, a recording paper inserting port, or a document ejecting port.

Page 3 of the Office Action asserts that Kuriyama (Figure 57, element 501) discloses a display unit closably arranged relative to an operation panel. For convenience, Kuriyama's Figure 57 (including element 501) is reproduced below:



Page 4 of the Office Action concedes that Kuriyama does not include a document ejecting port arranged on a front portion of the apparatus main body. Nevertheless, the Office Action relies on Uchiyama (Figure 1, element 206) for this feature. Uchiyama's Figure 1 is reproduced below:

FIG. 1



In that regard, page 5 of the Office Action proposes combining Kuriyama's apparatus, which allows a document to be fed in the rear of the apparatus, with Uchiyama's document ejecting port on the front of the apparatus.

However, if Uchiyama's document ejecting port (element 206) were arranged on the front portion of Kuriyama's apparatus as in the proposed combination, Kuriyama's display unit would block the document ejecting port when in a closed position. In particular, as seen above in Kuriyama's Figure 57, the closed display port closes over and blocks the front portion of the apparatus, including where Uchiyama's document ejecting port would be placed.

Such an arrangement would be contrary to Claim 1, which specifies that when the display unit is closed, it does not block the document ejecting portion.

Thus, Kuriyama and Uchiyama are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of a facsimile apparatus with a display unit which, when closed, does not block any of a document inserting port, a recording paper inserting port, or a document ejecting port.

Aibara has been reviewed and is not seen to remedy the deficiencies of Kuriyama and Uchiyama.

Therefore, independent Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent Claim 1 and are therefore believed allowable over the art of record for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the claims, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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